

22 JUL 1980

MEMORANDUM FOR: SA to the DCI for Compartmentation

FROM: James H. McDonald
Director of Logistics

SUBJECT: APEX Single System Implications

REFERENCE: Memorandum for D/S, D/L, D/ODGE, from SA to DCI for Compartmentation, dated 1 July 1980, same subject (OL 0 3036).

1. Referent transmitted a draft letter to the Director of Central Intelligence which describes certain implications of implementing the APEX single control system for Sensitive Compartmented Information (SCI). Addressees were requested to provide their views on the draft letter.

2. The effort to achieve uniform, community-wide standards under the APEX System is commendable, and we agree that the DCI and other senior Agency officials need to be more aware of the issues and tradeoffs involved. The challenge will be to achieve uniformity in the interpretation and application of whatever uniform standards are eventually adopted without there being a deterioration in the overall effectiveness of our security efforts.

3. We are concerned that uniformity, as defined, may eventually mean the acceptance by the Central Intelligence Agency of lower standards already in use by other agencies of the Federal Government. It would also appear, if we allow other agencies to inspect and make recommendations concerning CIA operational matters as your draft letter indicates, that CIA Program Managers and Contracting Officers would stand to lose the necessary degree of control over their own activities. Neither diminished standards nor diminished control seem advisable to us. We recommend strongly against any approach which would have such results. With this view in mind, we do not necessarily agree that (as suggested in paragraph 1 of the draft letter) all parties, especially the taxpayer, would benefit from uniform action unless the security standards to be met are sufficient to allay our concerns.

4. Your suggestion that the basic issues be aired in the presence of the DCI and other high-level Agency officials is one that we can support. Certainly, some such forum must be used to resolve the concerns that many Agency managers feel.

[Redacted]

James H. McDonald

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Attachment:

Reference

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